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SECRET INFORMATION

COUNTRY: Austria (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC: Soviet Troops in Melk, St Poelten and Mistelbach

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 2 January 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE

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Melk

1. On 26 November 1951, 27 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were engaged in close-order drill in the Pionier Kaserne, Melk (O 49/W 68). Three trucks stood in front of the garages, and an AT gun was seen through the open door of another garage. A group of 18 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and led by a Senior Lieutenant left the installation going toward the Danube River. Sedans [redacted] driven by soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets, and six Soviet uniformed women with red-bordered black epaulets were seen in the streets of the town.

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St Poelten

2. On 30 November, the billeting area on the west side of Schiessstattring, St Poelten (O 49/W 88), was extended to include the civilian garages west of the former Kreisgericht (county court building). A barbed-wire fence was erected around these garages which had ten large double doors. Four trucks [redacted] were parked in front of the garages. The trucks were marked with artillery insignia, and an artillery piece with muzzle brake was coupled to each truck. Military fuel was stored in the basement of a dilapidated, low barracks-building in front of the garages. It was guarded by a sentry who wore red-bordered black epaulets and belonged to the Rainer Kaserne. Six trucks, 3 tank trucks and 4 van-like trucks were seen in the yards of the barracks installation. Four amphibious trucks were on blocks in front of a garage south of the Prinz Eugen Kaserne. A gate was built into the wooden fence across Stoechrstrasse to allow the passage of military vehicles.
3. Three captains and 4 soldiers, all with black-bordered red epaulets, entered the Soviet homeadantura, which was guarded by a sentry who wore black-bordered red epaulets. Four soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen at the former military hospital on Corvinus Strasse. Two trucks [redacted] 1 van-like truck; 3 jeeps; and 2 sedans, [redacted] were parked in front of the post-office building.

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4. There was no change in the occupation of Camp Spratzarn. Gate guards wore red-bordered black epaulets. No artillery pieces or armored vehicles were seen. Eight soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets were noticed in the installation. Motor vehicles observed included trucks [redacted] with artillery insignia; and trucks [redacted] and jeep [redacted] all driven by soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets.

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CLASSIFICATION

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Mistelbach

5. The Erzherzog Karl Kaserne in Mistelbach (P 49/3 53), the billeting capacity of which was estimated at about 1,000 soldiers, appeared to be only 25 percent occupied on 20 November. Three trucks were parked in the barracks yard. No tracks, other than those of motor vehicles, were observed. Only 6 officers with red-bordered black epaulets were seen in the hutment at Mistelbach. Four captains with red-bordered black epaulets, including 3 with artillery insignia; 2 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets and 3 soldiers with black-bordered red epaulets were observed in the streets of the town. *

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[] Comment. The occupation of the two billeting areas at Mistelbach has not been determined.

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